

Remarks/Arguments

New Claims 21-25 are pending. Originally filed claims 1-20 have been canceled.

In the Office action mailed 07.29.2005, the Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for not disclosing every feature of the invention specified in the claims, specifically a "fourth connector" referred to in claims 18-20. With the cancellation of claims 1-20, this objection is no longer applicable.

The rejections of claims 1-20 under 35 USC § 112, 35 USC § 102 and 35 USC § 103 are now moot since claims 1 –20 have been canceled and replaced.

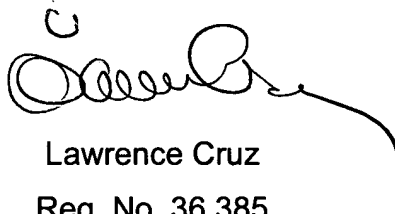
New claims 21-25 are directed to claim elements that are not anticipated by or rendered obvious by the prior art of record or by any prior art known by the Applicant. One of the substantial differences between the presently claimed invention and the cited reference U.S. 6.193.404 (Calange) is that the presently claimed invention claims, in new independent claim 21, a "driven shaft housing having a single, unitary tube-shaped body." The '404 patent is directed to a two-part shaft housing (as opposed to "single, unitary") comprising a sleeve (2) and an endpiece (1) that, when assembled together, form a single, continuous tube-shaped shaft housing. The '404 patent emphasizes as novel the removeability of the endpiece (1) for cleaning, and discusses this in terms of overcoming a known problem in the art in the background of the invention. Thus, it actually teaches away from the presently claimed invention.

Another substantial difference between the presently claimed invention and the '404 patent is the recital of the claimed "knob" element alone and in combination with a handle. The presently claimed knob is novel in view of the '404 patent and other prior art known to the applicant in that the '404 patent and others have two handles that have elongated grip portions that are fixed in their axial alignment

and can only be gripped in one way. Thus, a user is restricted to one position in how he or she must hold the apparatus, leading to fatigue. The novel use of a knob, as presently claimed, gives a user the option of gripping the apparatus in a variety of positions.

It is believed that claims 21-25 are in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lawrence Cruz', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Lawrence Cruz
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